State Technical Assistance and Match Program (STAMP) – State Matching Funds Application Guidelines

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Overview

OSBM's State Technical Assistance and Match Program (STAMP) is an initiative which enables state agencies to apply for funding for technical assistance and state matching funds associated with funding opportunities made possible by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) - also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) - the Chips and Science Act of 2022 (CHIPS), and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA). The goal of the STAMP program is to maximize federal funding awards to North Carolina.

This document sets guidelines for agencies to apply for STAMP State Matching Funds (STAMP-SMF) to secure BIL, CHIPS, and IRA funding. There is a separate application process to apply for STAMP technical assistance (STAMP-TA) support. Guidance on that process can be found on the OSBM Federal Funds website.

STAMP-SMF will help the state meet this goal by providing funds to state agencies to meet state match requirements when applying for BIL, CHIPS, and IRA funding opportunities.

Eligibility

State agencies (including universities and colleges in the UNC System) applying for BIL, CHIPS, and IRA funding opportunities are eligible to apply for STAMP-SMF funding.

Agencies that have already applied for these for BIL, CHIPS, and IRA funding opportunities and have either been awarded funds or are awaiting award notification may also apply for STAMP-SMF.

To be eligible for this funding, an Applicant's request(s) must clearly demonstrate how matching funds will enable specific BIL, CHIPS, or IRA funding opportunities and why STAMP-SMF funds, as opposed to other funds available to the Applicant, are needed.

Eligible funding opportunities include both new programs created by BIL, CHIPS, and IRA as well as existing federal programs which have been further funded by at least one of these bills.

STAMP-SMF may not be provided to a state agency for any federal grant for which the agency is allocated funds from the Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve in the most recent Appropriations Act or for which state matching funds are included in the agency's base budget.

- **NOTE**: Several BIL, CHIPS, and IRA programs encourage multi-stakeholder partnerships in application development. While local governments and non-profit organizations cannot receive STAMP-SMF funds directly, they may benefit as an application partner to a state agency.

Application Deadlines

OSBM will review applications monthly starting in January 2024. The submission deadline is **5 p.m. on the 15th of the month**. Thus, to be considered for the first round of funding an agency must submit their completed STAMP-SMF application(s) and supporting materials by **5 p.m. on January 15, 2024**; for the next round of funding, OSBM must receive all materials on or before 5 p.m. on February 15.

Application Instructions

To be considered for STAMP-SMF, eligible applicants must complete and submit the:

- STAMP-SMF Application

The application link is also available on OSBM's Federal Funding Opportunities website.

How to Apply

All Applicants applying for STAMP-SMF must submit an application via Microsoft Forms to be considered for funding.

If you have more than one state match request, you must submit a separate application for each STAMP-SMF request.

Helpful hints for successful applications:

- Read the questions and sub-questions closely when completing the STAMP-SMF application.
- Complete all questions on the application form unless directed otherwise. Incomplete applications are not eligible for funding and will not be considered until completed and resubmitted.
- Respond to any OSBM requests for additional information quickly. Failure to provide requested information may delay application review.
- Un-finished application forms cannot be saved. You must complete and submit the application in one sitting. OSBM recommends using a separate Word document to draft responses to all questions prior to starting the application. You can easily copy and paste those answers in the answer boxes.

If applicants experience technical issues with the application, contact OSBM at FederalFundsNC@osbm.nc.gov and describe the issue.

STAMP-SMF Questions

This section provides details on the questions included in the STAMP-SMF Application.

STAMP-SMF Application questions include:

1. Name

2. Email Address

3. Position/Title

4. State Agency or University

5. Agency Division or Bureau, University Department or School, etc.

6. Please provide a name for this request.

   - The name provided here will be used in the subject line any follow-up emails from OSBM. This name connects any supplemental documents provided by the Applicant, making a complete application.

7. If you receive STAMP-SMF, do you agree to provide information on the funding opportunity, status, awarded amount, and any other information requested by OSBM related to STAMP-SMF funding?

   - If you are not authorized to share the information for OSBM reporting requirements listed above, please work internally with your organization to either gain authorization or have authorized personnel complete this application.

8. List the federal funding opportunity for which the requested matching funds are required.

   - Please be as specific as possible regarding identifying the specific program offering the funding opportunity. For example, for EPA's CPRG funding opportunity, insert: "EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition."

9. What is the federal funding source of the program listed above?

   - STAMP funding is only for opportunities funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act.

10. Provide the website which hosts the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the funding opportunity.

11. Has the application already been submitted? If so, when? If not, what is the application deadline?

    - If a specific date is not yet posted, provide the projected submission month or season indicated by the federal program administering agency.

12. Have you already been notified of award? If not, what is the expected award notification date?

    - If a specific date is not yet posted, please provide the projected awards announcement month or season indicated by the federal program administering agency.

13. What are the state matching requirements for this federal funding opportunity?

    - Please provide both the percentage match and total dollar amount required.

14. Was your agency allocated matching funds for this federal funding opportunity from the Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve in North Carolina [SL 2023-134](#)?

    - If yes, please cite the appropriation's location.

15. Are state matching funds for this federal funding opportunity included in your agency's base budget?

    - If yes, please cite the location (budget code and budget fund) in your base budget.

16. Explain if and how other funding streams for state match have been exhausted. Describe why these sources are insufficient and/or describe other issues that have led your agency to apply for STAMP-SMF resources.

17. How much federal funding will STAMP-SMF allow your agency to receive?
    - Please provide a detailed description of the project you seek to fund through this federal funding opportunity. In your description, detail the readiness of the project, the size and scope of the project, prior investment in the project that the federal funding opportunity would further support if awarded, and how the project will require collaboration with other agencies or outside entities.

Please note, Questions #18–21 only need to be answered by Applicants who have not yet submitted their applications for federal funds.

18. For most BIL and IRA programs, projects must meet targets set by Justice40 Initiative. Describe the equitable impacts of the project(s) that your agency intends to fund. Alternatively, describe how your project(s) targets disproportionately impacted communities.
    - Insert "NA" if the Justice40 Initiative does not apply to your funding opportunity.

19. Describe job increases and/or other economic development impact that will result if your project(s).
    - Insert "NA" if the project(s) you intend to fund will not lead to increased jobs or have an economic development impact.

20. Describe how your project(s) will permanently impact the health and safety of the community or region of your project's location.
    - Insert "NA" if the project(s) you intend to fund will not lead to permanent impact on the health and safety of the community or region of your project's location.

21. How will you evaluate the impact of this project(s)? In your response, please describe any performance measures that will inform your evaluation and the data you'll collect to inform those measures.

Application Evaluation

OSBM staff will review all STAMP-SMF applications received by the deadline each month. Applications will first be reviewed to ensure the application is eligible for STAMP-SMF. OSBM will make decisions for eligible applications based on:

- Demonstrated need,
- Timeline,

- Scale of opportunity,
- Award status and Application competitiveness,
- Availability of STAMP-SMF funds.

Administration and Disbursement of Assistance

OSBM will notify successful STAMP-SMF applicants via an email to the individual who submitted the application. STAMP-SMF support is conditional upon award of federal funds, and OSBM will finalize the disbursement amount and timeline only after the Applicant submits a notification of award from the administering federal agency. Prior to receiving a funds disbursement, all STAMP-SMF recipients will enter into an agreement with the OSBM for funds transfer.

Applicants who have not yet submitted their applications for federal funds that become STAMP-SMF recipients must notify OSBM of:
- The date they submitted the funding opportunity application within seven days of submission to the administering federal agency.
- The funding opportunity application status (awarded/denied) and amount awarded, if applicable, within seven days of notification from the administering federal agency.

More Information

Please direct inquiries about STAMP to: FederalFundsNC@osbm.nc.gov.